



Proclamation

Presented to **Genshitsu Sen**

WHEREAS, Genshitsu Sen was born in Kyoto on April 19, 1923, as the first son of the fourteenth-generation Urasenke grand master (iemoto), Mugensai, and served as the Urasenke grand master (the fifteenth-generation grand master of the Urasenke Tradition of Tea) for thirty-eight years; in 2002 he transferred the iemoto position and the hereditary name Soshitsu that goes with it to his elder son, changed his own name from Soshitsu to Genshitsu, and is customarily referred to by the title Daisosho, which literally means "great grand master," his Buddhist ceremonial name being Hounsai; and

WHEREAS, Genshitsu Sen, since embarking on his first trip overseas in 1950, has sought actively to promote the way of tea internationally and has visited more than sixty countries (making over three hundred journeys abroad); he holds a Ph.D. from Nankai University, China, awarded to him in 1991 for the successful defense of his thesis concerning the influence of the Cha Jing, by Lu Yu (8th c.) on the development of Japan's chado culture; earned a Litt.d. from Chung-Ang University, Korea; and has been serving as Japan-United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, a position to which he was appointed by the Japanese government in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Genshitsu Sen, in January of 1951, first visited Hawai'i thus taking the initial steps in realizing his dream of making chanoyu, the way of tea, an international bridge promoting "peacefulness through a bowl of tea," hoping that through tea people would understand and appreciate Japanese culture, and that the Japanese would interact with and understand foreign culture so that another great war would be forever avoided; and

WHEREAS, Genshitsu Sen officially established the Hawai'i Shibu (an Urasenke established Hawai'i chapter) in a formal ceremony on March 3, 1951; after studying at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH) in 1952, he subsequently traveled to California and to other states, opening Shibu branches nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Genshitsu Sen is tremendously accomplished in advancing cultural exchange and understanding with the people of Japan and the people of Hawai'i:

- in 1976 he was awarded the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents' Medal for his contributions to the university;
- in 1978 was named an Honorary Citizen by the City and County of Honolulu;
- in 1983 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters by UH in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the university and for his leadership in spreading "the Way of the Tea" internationally;
- in 1986 he contributed funding in the amount of \$500,000 to establish a Soshitsu Sen XV Chair to teach the UH History Department credit course, "The Way of Tea in Japanese History and Culture";
- in 2000 he was elected to the Board of Governors of the East-West Center;
- in 2001 donated \$1,000,000 to the UH Center for Japanese Studies; and
- in 2009 conducted a tea offering ceremony at the Hawai'i State Capitol in a prayer for world peace and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Hawai'i's statehood;

NOW, THEREFORE I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 17, 2013, as

"GENSHITSU SEN DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us commemorating **Genshitsu Sen's** years of dedicated service to the people of Hawai'i and to the greater global community.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fourteenth of February, 2013.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i